

**William Carroll to Andrew Jackson, August 4, 1833,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

1 This seems to be the letter mentioned in the note to p. 130 of vol. V. as lost. See Sir Charles Vaughan's letter of July 14, 1833, *ibid.* , and Jackson to Carroll, July 15, *ibid.* , p. 131.

Nashville, Tenn. , August 4, 1833.

*My dear Sir,* Your letter of the 15th of July came to hand by due course of mail and should have been replied to sooner, but I was desirous to see and converse with Doctor Hogg and General White in relation to the circumstances which gave rise to the opinion that the watch word and countersign of the British army, on the morning of the 8th of January 1815, were " *Beauty and Booty* ." 2 Those gentlemen and myself agree that the first knowledge we had in relation to the subject was obtained from a letter written by Judge Poindexter and published in a news paper at Washington Mississippi, which was received at the encampment about ten days after the battle. I recollect that some of my men found one or two orderly books of the enemy which I think were handed to you at *Head Quarters* ; but what they contained I do not remember at this distant day, though afterwards I heard it repeatedly said that the order containing the watch word and countersign was found in orderly books taken on the battle ground as stated by Major Eaton in his life of Jackson. I have examined every book and paper in my possession on the Orleans campaign, but am unable to find a single word in relation to the subject.

2 See vol. V., p. 130 n.

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For some years after the battle of New Orleans, I entertained the belief that an officer like Sir Edward Packingham who had rendered such important services to his King and Country could not have given to his army the watch word and countersign attributed to him. But after the subject had been mentioned from year to year in almost every news paper in the United States and by Mr. Cobbett in England, without contradiction, I was inclined to think that the imputation was not wholly without foundation. I wish I could be more explicit, but I have said all, which at this time I can remember.

Most sincerely Your friend